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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/811,617	03/20/2001	Charles-Guillaume Blanchon	109000	1479

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EXAMINER

SHIPSIDES, GEOFFREY P

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1732

DATE MAILED: 06/05/2002

12

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Applicati n No.

09/811,617

Applicant(s)

BLANCHON, CHARLES-
GUILLAUME0

Examiner

Geoffrey P. Shippides

Art Unit

1732

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 April 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 5.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election with traverse of Group I in Paper No. 11 is acknowledged. The argument is found persuasive and thus the restriction requirement in Paper No. 9 is rescinded. Claims 1-17 remain active in the case.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-4, 8-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,961,700 (Dunbar) in view of Japanese Patent No. JP 05154868 A (Momotome), U.S. Patent No. 5,800,759 (Yamazaki et al.), U.S. Patent No. 4,328,067 (Cesano), U.S. Patent No. 5,188,787 (King et al.), and U.S. Patent No. 5,032,106 (Warburton).

Dunbar teaches a method and apparatus for molding fiber-reinforced articles (Abstract, lines 1-2) particularly suitable for the production of automobile bumpers (Abstract, lines 12-13). The mold as taught by Dunbar includes first and second mold portions (Figures 2-4). The process includes placing a sheet between the mold portions (Figure 2), pressing the sheet against the first portion in the middle of the sheet by a pusher on the second portion that is movable relative to the second mold portion (Figure

Art Unit: 1732

3), followed by the closing of the remainder of the mold (Figure 4) to conform the sheet (reinforcement blanket) to the shape of the mold portions (preform screens). Dunbar teaches that the mold portions are held together by a clamping device (Column 4, lines 15-20), this constitutes the compacting of the sheet. Dunbar also teaches the removal of the formed sheet after the curing of the sheet in the mold (Column 4, line 48).

With regard to claims 1-3 and 14, Dunbar does not specifically teach the trimming off the portion of the sheet that projects from the join plane. Dunbar does teach the precutting of a sheet prior to placing the sheet into the mold (Column 5, line 7). It is, however, well known in the art of molding to trim or cut off sheet portions during or after press molding operations while the sheet is in the mold and Warburton, King et al., Cesano, Yamazaki et al., and Momotome are merely cited to provide evidence that it is well known in the art to trim or cut off portions of press formed sheets while the sheet is in the mold.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to trim off the portions of the sheet remaining outside of the mold as is well known in the art after the press molding of the sheet in the process as taught by Dunbar in order to cut the press molded sheet to final shape while the sheet is already clamped down and to also ensure that the sheet is precisely cut to the desired shape.

With regard to claim 4, Warburton, King et al., Cesano, Yamaziki et al., and Momotome are all cut by blades mounted on a cursor of the mold. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to mount blades on

Art Unit: 1732

the cursor of the molding tool as is well known in the art in order to facilitate a trimming operation bringing the press molded sheet to the desired shape.

With regard to claims 11 and 17, Dunbar teaches a molding apparatus that includes all aspects of the claimed apparatus except a trimming means. It is, however, well known, as discussed above to include trimming means in a molding tool. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to include trimming means in the molding tool as taught by Dunbar in order facilitate the trimming of a press formed sheet.

With regard to claims 5 and 6, Dunbar teaches that a binder material is added before enclosing the reinforcement blanket (sheet) within the preform screens (mold) (Column 4, lines 38-42). Dunbar teaches that the binder material is added by a suitable applicator, this implies the extrusion of binder material on to the sheet.

With regard to claim 7, it is well known in the art of molding to press mold a sheet followed by injection molding material into the mold to overmold the press molded sheet. Momotome and Yamazaki et al. are merely cited to show that this is well known in the art. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to use the well known method of injection molding material into the press molding mold cavity as taught by Dunbar in order to overmold as is well known in the art as a method of introducing the binder material as taught by Dunbar into the mold cavity.

With regard to claims 8 and 13, it is also well known to use corresponding ribs and grooves to facilitate the in mold cutting operation. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to use the well known in mold

cutting mold design in order to cut the sheet in the molding method as taught by Dunbar.

With regard to claims 9, 10, and 12, the mold as taught by Dunbar has a set back and a pusher associated with the set back.

With regard to claims 15 and 16, it is well known in the art of press molding to preheat sheet to be molded. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to preheat the sheet as taught by Dunbar in the process as taught by Dunbar in order to facilitate the shaping to the sheet.

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. U.S. Patent No. 5,040,962 (Waszeciak et al.), U.S. Patent No. 5,114,651 (Warburton), U.S. Patent No. 5,085,571 (Congleton), U.S. Patent No. 4,909,721 (Warburton), U.S. Patent No. 3,115,678 (Keen et al.), U.S. Patent No. 6,159,402 (Valyi), U.S. Patent No. 5,154,872 (Masui et al.), U.S. Patent No. 6,328,549 (Valyi et al.), and U.S. Patent No. 5,164,140 (Siano) are cited as art of interest to show the current state of the art at the time of invention.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Geoffrey P. Shipsides whose telephone number is 703-306-0311. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 9 AM till 5 PM.

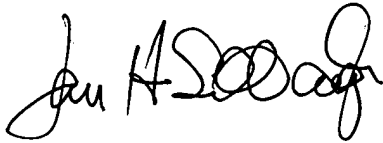
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jan H Silbaugh can be reached on 703-308-3829. The fax phone numbers

Art Unit: 1732

for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9310 for regular communications and 703-872-9311 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0661.

Geoffrey P. Shipsides/gps
May 17, 2002


JAN H. SILBAUGH
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
ART UNIT 1732
05/31/02